



MOUNT ALLISON STUDENTS' UNION

Executive Newsletters
October 31, 2016

PRESIDENT & CEO, RYAN LEBRETON

INTERNAL – STRATEGIC PLANNING

Strategic planning is well underway at this point. There has been an ad-hoc committee created composed of 5 students at large, 3 councilors from the Students' Administrative Council, and myself (as chair). We will begin student consultation in November through different committees. Each MASU Committee Chair will be responsible for conducting student consultation however he/she feels fit. There will be a variety of ways to contribute over the next few months so please stay tuned and keep an eye out for opportunities to have your voice heard. A good strategic plan is dependent on good engagement so please be ready and willing to share where you would like to see the MASU in three years.

UNIVERSITY – POND PROPOSALS

The MASU will be working with Kim Meade, Vice President International and Student Affairs, and Andy Hebert, [insert title] to draft a proposal for changes at The Pond. The University's Alcohol Education, Harms and Reduction committee has identified changes at The Pond to be very important to promote safe consumption on campus. Once again, there will be ample opportunity in the coming months to give feedback on what you would like to see changed at The Pond. The report will be primarily physical changes, and hopefully spark a renovation in the near future.

EXTERNAL – NBSA/CASA ADVOCACY WEEKS

I am gearing up for both our provincial and federal lobby weeks. November 7th to 10th, I will be in Fredericton with Tierra Stokes, Sara Camus, and Matthew Roberts for NBSA advocacy week, then in Ottawa from Nov 13th to 18th with Mary Emma MacNeil for CASA advocacy week. I have the pleasure to represent over 12,000 students provincially, and 250,000 federally. Stay tuned for the dropping of both budgets in the 2017 years to hopefully see some tangible results.

Ryan LeBreton
MASU President

VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, MARY EMMA MACNEIL

EXTENDED LIBRARY HOURS

I have submitted a proposal to the Provost and Vice-President Academic & Research, Dr. Jeff Ollerhead, which will be brought forth during the Budget development process to potentially have extended hours covered under the operating procedure budget.

PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEES (PAC)

Integrated Strategic Plan The committee has been discussing how we will compile all of the individual documents into the University Strategic Plan from the respective working committees (ie: Academic Strategic Plan, Academic Research Strategic Plan), ensure they do not contradict each other, and prioritize each of the recommendations.

Provost Appointment (2017-2019) The committee has scheduled a public forum for the candidate to present to the University community on November 1, 2016 at 4:00pm followed by a question and answer period.

ACADEMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE

The Academic Matters committee has been reviewing potential distribution credit systems for implementation in the 2017-2018 Academic Calendar. This process is in the early stages, working with each academic department to ensure that each category is reflective of the courses within it. The student senators brought forth a draft system, a hybrid of those proposed taking into account concerns from students'. The goal of implementing a new system is to encourage, but not force breadth in students' course selection. Consultation sessions will be forthcoming.

ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE INITIATIVE

I have been working to develop a system of transportation for students looking to access mental health services in Moncton. The system would include the MASU processing travel claims of up to \$750 for students covered under the MASU Health Insurance plan. This is only one option: the MASU would provide vouchers for students covering their upfront travel costs to and from the service. The logistics of this service are still in the works and we are brainstorming ways we can cover the costs of students who are not covered by the insurance plan.

Mary Emma MacNeil
VP Academic Affairs

VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, TINA OH

INTRODUCTION

From the time when the last newsletter was published until now, several projects have been completed through my office. While the success of these projects are often contingent on their completion, it would be dishonest to not mention the failures that I have faced as well. I encourage all students to critique and meet with me regarding the following projects/aims, as I continue to try my best in being respectful to the position I hold.

INTERNAL

My office has met multiple times with Facilities Management for an efficient integration of the [...drumroll please...] 3-stream garbage system. In collaboration with Eco-Action, I am very pleased and excited to work on an educational campaign before the new garbage system is implemented on campus. As well, I have met with key stakeholders to discuss bursary and scholarship eligibility on campus, and a possible creation for a MASU-funded financial aid bursary.

MUNICIPAL (TOWN OF SACKVILLE)

The Town of Sackville and the MASU brought you Plants & Animals in September during the Fall Fair. All key organizers have talked at lengths about the issues re: 19+ tent, and promotions. I will be leaving notes to my predecessor as to how we can work out these issues in the future. As well, my office hosted Community BBQs to make an active effort for permanent residents of Sackville to get to know their student neighbours. A major thank you to SaveEasy, Foodland, and the SouthEast Regional Service Commission for their donations.

PROVINCIAL (NBSA)

Earlier this month, the NBSA met at UNB Saint John for our Policy Priorities conference. Here, we discussed and wrote our policy asks for Advocacy Week which will be held in November. As Vice-Chair, I had the pleasure of writing policy on Indigenous student support, and funding formula. I will continue to be a point of reference for recruitment and member relations.

FEDERAL (CASA)

As the Vice-Chair of Federal Policy for the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), I have been working on updating policy on student loan and differential tuition. These updated and new policies will set the framework for CASA's Advocacy Week in November.

Tina Oh
VP External Affairs

VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT LIFE, ANTHONY MADDALENA

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The time has come for student consultation to begin on the topic of student health and wellness! The MASU and the Wellness Centre will be pairing up to talk to students in the coming weeks and to inform students about the services we currently have available and how to access them. This is a great opportunity for you to come talk to the people who can directly address any concerns you might have. Positive feedback is helpful too, so tell us what you like and what we should do more of.

There will be a Wellness Week towards the end of November (dates to be confirmed) that will feature informational sessions on health and wellness, both physical and mental. Interactive activities to relieve some stress will be planned as well. This is something that the Health Services Coordinator, Tierza Petersen, will be working on with the VP Student Life.

HANDBOOKS HANDBOOKS HANDBOOKS!

The updated Clubs & Society Handbook is in the works and will soon be available to students. This can be used as a guide to navigating the clubs and societies, this will include descriptions and contact info for each group.

A student handbook will be on the to do list for the Student Life Committee. This will feature information on all of the resources available to students both on campus and in the town of Sackville. We will be looking to develop a section in the handbook that focuses on the transition from on to off campus living. So keep an eye out for this in the coming months.

HIRING AND APPOINTMENTS

Hiring has been completed for the positions of the Athletic Affairs Coordinator and the Student International Affairs Coordinator. The Student Life Committee will be appointed in the coming days and will get down to business right away. A big shout out goes to Cydney Kane for organizing all of the interviews for these positions and to everyone who applied for showing a keen interest and getting involved.

Anthony Maddalena
VP Student Life

VICE PRESIDENT FINANCE & OPERATIONS, ALEX LEPIANKA

Fall is an exciting time for the Vice-President, Finance & Operations' office. Because I oversee our Elections Office, I worked closely with our Chief Returning Officer to ensure that our elections were running smoothly and effectively. Though we faced a lower than expected voter turnout, as well as some other hiccups, I am pleased to say that we have elected a full complement of Councillors. This is a hugely important component of ensuring that the MASU's governance is considerate of its members' interests and needs.

Having a full Council also means that many of the projects in my office can finally take off. The most exciting, for me, is the allocation of Grants and Awards to individuals, clubs, and societies. With a full Council, the committee responsible for awarding these funds can meet and get to work in supporting our community and our membership.

Additionally, I have spent the past month preparing materials and projects for the other Committees that I chair as VPFO. This year, the Finance Committee and the Operations Committee will be taking on a few long-term projects. The former will be discussing how we budget for labour expenses, focusing on fair compensation to ensure that any member can get involved with the MASU while being paid fairly for their efforts. This will include considering long-term budgeting strategies and setting better standards for remuneration.

Also, the Operations Committee will be developing better terms of reference for our Executive to work over the summer. The MASU's Executive are the core group of our operations, overseeing every part of the MASU's operations. The success of the organization's work depends on organizing the Executive and developing effective strategies for transitioning new Executives into the role, training them, and making sure that organizational goal-setting take place.

These committees are exciting places for members to engage with the MASU's governance. While many of our committees are currently full, it is definitely worthwhile to look out for future opportunities to participate in these bodies. The MASU is its membership!

Alex Lepianka
VP Finance & Operations

VICE PRESIDENT COMMUNICATIONS, SARA CAMUS

INTRODUCTION

The VP Communications is responsible for communicating news, updates, and event information to MASU members. On top of the generic tasks that I've completed (such as advertising events and deadlines), there have been a few initiatives and events that have come out of the office of the Vice-President Communications that I will delve into briefly.

CHMA

The pilot show for "What's New At The MASU?" took place on August 30th, 2016. What's New At The MASU? focuses on updating listeners with relevant PSAs while only playing Canadian music or songs recorded through Conduct Becoming. Since August 30th, I've conducted interviews with six different individuals with varying titles on the MASU: Meghan McCracken (Orientation Chair), Megan Woodman (Shinerama Chair), Connie Xie (CRO), Cydney Kane (Appointment Chair), Ryan LeBreton (President/CEO), and Tina Oh (VP External Affairs). On Tuesday, November 1st, a pre-recorded interview with the newly elected councilors will air. Tune in on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:00pm!

EVENT PUBLICITY

This year, I have thoroughly enjoyed working alongside the clubs and societies on campus to help promote their events. The services I offer are: photography during the event, a feature on the MASU's Event Calendar, and promotion through social media. Over the last couple months, the MASU has supported include (but are not limited to): Literacy Project, Commerce Society, Rose Campaign, Relay for Life, Chem/BioChem Society, Healthcare Outreach, Model United Nations and Team Fox. If you are an executive member of a club or society and are interested in any of the services I provide as VP Communications feel free to send me an email at masucommunications@mta.ca.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The MASU's Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday, October 26, 2016. The purpose of an AGM is to provide an opportunity for the members of union to meet and discuss the relevant issues. With help from my Communications Committee, every attendee left with gift bags with randomized contents. Much gratitude is expressed for those in attendance.

Sara Camus
VP Communications